

may allow the introduction of rebuttal evidence. The Hearing Officer may allow the Party to respond to rebuttal evidence submitted.

(d) In receiving evidence, the Hearing Officer shall not be bound by the strict rules of evidence. In evaluating the evidence presented, the Hearing Officer shall give due consideration to the reliability and relevance of each item of evidence.

(e) After the evidence in the case has been presented, the Party may present argument on the issues in the case. The party may also request an opportunity to submit a written statement for consideration by the Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer shall allow a reasonable time for submission of the statement and shall specify the date by which it must be received. If the statement is not received within the specified time, the Hearing Officer may render a decision in the case without consideration of the statement.

#### **§ 221.87 Records.**

(a) A verbatim transcript of a hearing will not normally be prepared. The Hearing Officer will prepare notes on material and points raised by the Party in sufficient detail to permit a full and fair review of the case.

(b) A Party may, at its own expense, cause a verbatim transcript to be made, in which event the Party shall submit, without charge, two copies to the Hearing Officer within 30 days of the close of the hearing.

#### **§ 221.89 Hearing Officer's decision.**

(a) The Hearing Officer shall issue a written decision. Any decision to assess a penalty shall be based on substantial evidence in the record, and shall state the basis for the decision.

(b) If the Hearing Officer finds that there is not substantial evidence in the record establishing the alleged violation, the Hearing Officer shall dismiss the case. A dismissal is without prejudice to the Vessel Transfer Officer's right to refile the case if additional evidence is obtained. A dismissal following a rehearing is final and with prejudice.

(c) The Hearing Officer shall notify the Party in writing, by certified or registered mail, of the decision and, if

adverse, shall advise the Party of the right to an administrative appeal to the Maritime Administrator or an individual designated by the Administrator from that decision.

(d) If an appeal is not filed within the prescribed time, the decision of the Hearing Officer constitutes final agency action in the case.

#### **§ 221.91 Appeals.**

(a) Any appeal from the decision of the Hearing Officer must be submitted in writing by the Party to the Hearing Officer within 30 days from the date of receipt of the Hearing Officer's decision.

(b) The only issues that will be considered on appeal are those issues specified in the appeal which were raised before the Hearing Officer and jurisdictional questions.

(c) There is no right to oral argument on an appeal.

(d) The Maritime Administrator or an individual designated by the Administrator will issue a written decision on the appeal, and may affirm, reverse, or modify the decision, or remand the case for new or additional proceedings. In the absence of a remand, the decision on appeal is final agency action.

(e) The Maritime Administrator or an individual designated by the Administrator shall notify the Party in writing, by certified or registered mail, of the decision on appeal and, if adverse, shall advise the Party of the right of appeal to the courts.

#### **§ 221.93 Collection of civil penalties.**

Within 30 days after receipt of the Hearing Officer's decision, or a decision on appeal, the Party must submit payment of any assessed penalty in the manner specified in the decision letter. Failure to make timely payment will result in the institution of appropriate action to collect the penalty.

### **Subpart F—Other Transfers Involving Documented Vessels [Reserved]**